

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8903

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14792

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ABLD, UR, US  
SUBJ: EARLY CONSTRUCTION OF SOVIET APARTMENT BUILDING IN WASHING-  
TON

REF: STATE 231244

1. WHILE WAITING TO DEPART FOR NEW YORK WITH GROMYKO, KORNIYENKO SPOKE TO ME BRIEFLY THIS MORNING REGARDING HARTMAN'S MEETING WITH VORONTSOV ON THE SOVIET REQUEST TO PROCEED WITH THE APARTMENT PORTION OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY COMPLEX (REFTEL).

2. HIS FIRST COMMENT WAS THAT PAPER GIVEN VORONTSOV BY HARTMAN WAS INACCURATE IN STATING THAT NO SOVIET REPLY RECEIVED TO SOME REQUESTS. WHEN I ASKED WHAT HE CONSIDERED INACCURATE, HE SAID THAT REPLY HAD BEEN GIVEN TO OUR REQUEST TO RETAIN PRESENT CHANCERY AFTER CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ONE. ANSWER, HE SAID, IS FLAT NO, SINCE THIS WOULD REQUIRE RENEGOTIATING ENTIRE AGREEMENT ON EXCHANGE OF EMBASSY SITES, AND SOVIETS ARE UNWILLING TO DO THIS. AS FOR TEN PERCENT UPDK LEVY, HE CLAIMED THAT WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THIS WILL NOT BE APPLIED.

3. HE THEN SAID, REGARDING PROVISION THAT SOVIETS WOULD NOT OCCUPY THEIR APARTMENTS UNTIL WE HAVE BEGUN CONSTRUCTION HERE, THAT THIS IS CONSIDERED UNFAIR CONDITION, GIVEN HISTORY OF DELAYS ON U.S. SIDE, UNLESS IT IS MADE APPLICABLE ONLY IF  
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DELAY IN BEGINNING U.S. PROJECT IS CAUSED BY SOVIETS.

4. I TOLD KORNIYENKO THAT WE WERE OF COURSE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ANY OF OUR REQUESTS IF HE DESIRED. BASIC POINT, HOWEVER, IS THAT EMBASSY IS NOT RECEIVING ANYTHING NEAR THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES IT HAS A RIGHT TO EXPECT, EVEN IF THE SOVIETS WERE NOT SOLICITING OUR EFFORTS TO FACILITATE EARLY CONSTRUCTION OF THEIR PROJECT. SLOWNESS IN PROVIDING HOUSING, AND TOTAL LACK OF RESPONSIVENESS ON REQUESTS FOR EXTRA ELECTRICAL SUPPLY, WAREHOUSE SPACE AND APPROPRIATE SCHOOL FACILITIES WERE CITED AS EXAMPLES. AS FOR REQUEST FOR COST QUOTATIONS, THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE SIMPLE MATTER NOW THAT PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED.

5. COMMENT. IT WOULD SEEM THAT KORNIYENKO IS INDEED PRIMED TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WHILE IN WASHINGTON, AND WE WOULD CONSIDER A DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH HIM HIGHLY DESIRABLE. SINCE THE REQUEST TO RETAIN OUR PRESENT CHANCERY SEEMS TO GIVE SOVIETS PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY AND MAY ACT AS BLOCK TO PROGRESS ON OTHER POINTS, IT MIGHT BE TACTICALLY USEFUL TO INDICATE EARLY ON THAT WE MAY NOT INSIST ON THIS TO BITTER END IF REST OF PACKAGE CAN BE REASONABLY SATISFIED. WE WOULD ALSO SEE NO SERIOUS OBJECTION TO STATING THAT SOVIETS MAY NOT OCCUPY THE APARTMENTS BEFORE THE START OF OUR PROJECT, PROVIDED THE DELAY IN OUR PROJECT IS CAUSED BY SOVIET ACTION OR INACTION.

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